Reading and Annotating Non-Fiction

All authors write with ***Intent*** and ***Purpose***. Nonfiction writing is writing that claims to tell us information that is real. Our job as readers is to figure out whether or not to trust that information.

How do we know if we believe what the author writes? Three questions can help:

1. What surprised me?
   1. Ask yourself what is something new in the text that you did not know before you read?
2. What did the author expect me to understand beforehand?
   1. Ask yourself what do I already know about the topic that helps me understand?
3. What challenged, changed, or confirmed what I already knew?
   1. Ask yourself if the text caused you to ask different questions about the topic, made you realize you were already well-informed on the topic, or if it completely changed (yes, even blew) your mind!

**Use the Annotation Guide in your Interactive Notebook!**

**You should be able to answer those three questions after every text you read.**

**BIG SIGNPOSTS TO LOOK FOR WHILE READING**

1. **Contrasts and Contradictions:** the author is showing you how people/things/ideas contrast or contradict each other.
   1. What to do: ask yourself what is the difference between the two sides and why does it matter?
2. **Extreme Language:** the author has really strong feelings about the topic or could be exaggerating the facts; they could even be deceiving or misleading the reader!
   1. What to do: ask yourself why did the author use this language?
3. **Numbers and Stats:** the author is using specific numbers for a reason.
   1. What to do: ask yourself why did the author use these numbers or amounts
4. **Quoted Words (Quotes):** The author is quoting someone who adds a specific and unique perspective to the topic.
   1. What to do: ask yourself why was this person quoted or cited and what does this add to your knowledge of the topic?
5. **Word Gaps:** Sometimes authors use words or phrases you might not know
   1. What to do: Ask yourself if you know the word from somewhere else? Is this word technical, or specific, to this topic? Can I find clues in the sentence (like derivatives?) to help me understand the word?